

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BANGKO 09291 01 OF 02 291057Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
HA-05 /078 W
-----020593 291121Z /10

R 290816Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2354
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
DIA WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 9291/1

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, TH, CB
SUBJ: BANGKOK PRESS ARTICLE ON EXPERIENCE OF NINE THAI VILLAGERS
KIDNAPPED AND TAKEN INTO CAMBODIA

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A PARTICULARLY INTERESTING
ARTICLE IN BANGKOK POST OF MARCH 29, COVERING AN INTERVIEW WITH
SEVERAL THAI VILLAGERS WHO WERE KIDNAPPED BY COMBINED FORCE
OF THAI INSURGENTS AND KHMER ROUGE IN BAN KLONG WA, LAHA SAI
DISTRICT, BURIRAM PROVINCE, ON FEB 19 AND HELD FOR ONE MONTH
IN CAMBODIA, WHERE THEY UNDERWENT INDOCTRINATION. NINE OF THE
VILLAGERS REPORTEDLY KIDNAPPED WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE TO THAILAND
ON MARCH 26. THEIR ACCOUNT OF THEIR EXPERIENCES IS PLAUSIBLE
AND IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO
THE EMBASSY. END SUMMARY.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BANGKO 09291 01 OF 02 291057Z

1. QTE. AT LEAST 400 THAI VILLAGERS WHO WERE KIDNAPPED
OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS BY THE COMMUNIST INVADERS FROM
THE CAMBODIAN-BACKED ANGKAR SIEM ORGANIZATION ARE FORCED
TO UNDERGO REHABILITATION AND INDOCTRINATION IN VARIOUS
COMMUNIST-OPERATED SCHOOLS IN CAMBODIA, ACCORDING TO A
GROUP OF NINE EXCAPEES.

2. QTE. THE GROUP SAID THE COMMUNIST INSURGENTS ARE PLANNING TO USE THE NEWLY CONVERTED RED SYMPATHIZERS IN FUTURE ATTACKS ON GOVERNMENT FORCES ALONG THE BORDER.

3. QTE. LAST SUNDAY NIGHT, A BAND OF CAMBODIAN-TRAINED TERRORISTS STAGED A WELL-PLANNED, TWO-PRONGED RAID ON TWO ISOLATED VILLAGES IN REMOTE LAHANSAI DISTRICT OF BURIRAM AND TOOK OVER 160 PEOPLE HOSTAGE AS WELL AS SEVERAL HEAD OF CATTLE TO CAMBODIA.

4. QTE. THE ESCAPEES WERE VILLAGERS OF TAMBON TAPPRIK OF ARANYAPRATHET, AND WATTANA NAKHON DISTRICT OF PRACHINBURI. THEY SNEAKED BACK INTO THAILAND SUNDAY AFTER SPENDING OVER A MONTH UNDER COMMUNIST CAPTIVITY IN CAMBODIA'S TAMOREPUAK.

5. QTE. MR. KWANCHAI HIRATHISAKORN, HEADMASTER OF BAN NONG-EEK SCHOOL, WHO LED THE OTHER EIGHT HOSTAGES TO FREEDOM, RELATED THAT HE HAD SEEN OVER 200 THAIS, MOSTLY FROM BURIRAM, IN THE "MARCH 8" SCHOOL AND MANY MORE IN THE "OCTOBER 6" SCHOOL LOCATED IN TAMOREPUAK.

6. QTE. KWANCHAI AND THE OTHER HOSTAGES ARRIVED IN BAN SA-NGAE, TA PHRAYA, FROM CAMBODIA AT ABOUT 3 A.M. SUNDAY.

7. QTE. THEY WERE SPOTTED BY VILLAGE DEFENSE VOLUNTEERS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BANGKO 09291 01 OF 02 291057Z

WHO MISTOOK THEM FOR KHMER ROUGE INTRUDERS BECAUSE OF THE BLACK PAJAMAS, THE TYPICAL CAMBODIAN CLOTHING, THEY WERE WEARING. THEY FLED IN PANIC, BUT FINALLY SLEPPED BACK TO THE VILLAGE SAFELY AND REPORTED TO THE VILLAGE HEADMAN.

8. QTE. KWANCHAI RELATED THAT HE, ALONG WITH 5 OTHER FARMERS, WAS CAPTURED BY A BAND OF COMMUNIST INTRUDERS ON FEB 19 WHILE HARVESTING POTATOES IN BAN KLONG WA.

9. QTE. WE WERE FORCED TO WALK UNDER THE GUARD OF TWO KHMER ROUGE AND THREE THAI COMMUNISTS FOR 5-6 KILOMETERS UNTIL WE ARRIVED AT THE MA HERM MOUNTAIN RANGE WHERE WE WERE ALLOWED TO REST, GIVEN FOOD AND BLACK PAJAMAS.

10. QTE. WE SPENT A NIGHT THERE AND WERE PICKED UP THE MORNING AFTER BY A GMC TRUCK AND TAKEN TO GUP VILLAGE WHERE A WAITING LAND ROVER THEN TOOK US TO SISOPHON.

11. QTE. KWANCHAI SAID THAT ALONG THE SISOPHON-TAMOREPUAK HIGHWAY, HE SAW A BIG SIGN BOARD IN THAI WHICH READS "OCTOBER 6 SCHOOL". THERE, HE ADDED, HE HAD LUNCH BEFORE PROCEEDING ON FOOT FOR ANOTHER 5-6 KILOMETERS TO ANOTHER

SCHOOL, THE "MARCH 8" LOCATED IN BAN KABARN SARONG.

12. QTE. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 200 THAIS THERE, MOST OF THEM KIDNAP VICTIMS FROM BURIRAM, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE SIX NEWCOMERS WERE ALLOWED TO REST FOR THREE DAYS.

13. QTE. THE SCHOOL HEADMASTER RECALLED THAT THE DAILY LIFE AT THE "MARCH 8" SCHOOL BEGAN WITH EVERYBODY GETTING UP AT 5:30 IN THE MORNING AND WORKING FROM 6 A.M. UNTIL 5 P.M. LUNCH BREAK WAS AT 10 A.M. AND DINNER WAS GIVEN AT DUSK.

WHITEHOUSE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BANGKO 09291 02 OF 02 291107Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

HA-05 /078 W

-----020632 291121Z /10

R 290816Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2355

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 BANGKOK 9291

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, TH, CB

SUBJ: BANGKOK PRESS ARTICLE ON EXPERIENCE OF NINE THAI VILLAGERS
KIDNAPPED AND TAKEN INTO CAMBODIA

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

14. QTE. THE MEN WERE ORDERED TO PREPARE FIREWOOD OR SEARCH FOR FOOD-WHATEVER THEY COULD FIND - IN THE FOREST. THE MAIN INGREDIENT IS SALT.

15. QTE. AND AT 7 P.M. HE CONTINUED, ALL THE SCHOOL RECRUITS WOULD GATHER AT A SORT OF COMMUNITY BUILDING TO LISTEN TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THAILAND'S DAILY BROADCAST OF ITS ACTIVITIES AND ENCOUNTERS WITH GOVERNMENT FORCES.

16. QTE. AFTER THE BROADCAST A LEADER OF THE SCHOOL, A THAI UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BANGKO 09291 02 OF 02 291107Z

BY THE NAME OF "COMRADE SAMRITH" WILL RELATE THE CPT'S ACTIVITIES TO THE AUDIENCE.

17. QTE. COMRADE SAMRITH, SAID KWANCHAI, HAD CLAIMED THAT COMMUNIST ELEMENTS HAD ALREADY INFILTRATED SEVERAL CIRCLES IN THE BANGKOK METROPOLIS. HE ALSO SAID THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO FORCE THE VILLAGERS INTO CAMBODIA BECAUSE THE COMMUNISTS DIDN'T WANT TO HURT THEM DURING FUTURE CLASHES WITH GOVERNMENT FORCES.

18. QTE. KWANCHAI SAID THAT HE BEHAVED WELL AND OBEYED THE COMMUNIST ORDERS UNTIL HE FINALLY WON THE CONFIDENCE OF THE COMMUNIST GUARDS.

19. QTE. THEN THE HEADMASTER PLANNED THE GET-AWAY. EIGHT OTHER HOSTAGES, INCLUDING HIS WIFE, AGREED ON THE PLOT SINCE KWANCHAI WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE TERRAIN.

20. QTE. ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 25 DURING THE CPT'S BROADCAST HOURS, NINE OF US SLIPPED OUT OF THE SCHOOL INTO THE FOREST AND TREKKED NON-STOP, WITHOUT USING THE USUAL JUNGLE PATH, UNTIL WE REACHED BAN SA-NGAE EARLY IN THE MORNING.

21. QTE KWANCHAI DISCLOSED THAT AFTER COMPLETING THE RE-HABILITATION PERIOD AT THE "MARCH 8" SCHOOL, THE CAPTIVES WOULD THEN BE SENT TO THE "MARCH 6" SCHOOL FOR COMMUNIST INDOCTRINATION AFTER WHICH THEY WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO THE "51" SCHOOL FOR ACTUAL COMBAT TRAINING.

22. QTE. AFTER THAT, THE VILLAGERS WHO BY NOW ARE BRAIN-WASHED WILL BE ARMED AND SENT BACK TO THAILAND TO FIGHT GOVERNMENT FORCES. END QTE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BANGKO 09291 02 OF 02 291107Z

WHITEHOUSE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TEXT, KIDNAPPING, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGKO09291
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780136-0048
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780316/aaaaamsf.tel
Line Count: 222
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1c27febb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3175735
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BANGKOK PRESS ARTICLE ON EXPERIENCE OF NINE THAI VILLAGERS KIDNAPPED AND TAKEN INTO CAMBODIA CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD
TAGS: PINS, SOPN, TH, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1c27febb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014